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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 6 July 2011

Greening Your Congregation

Learn more about your personal responsibility to the earth and what your congregation can do to be more green at the *Greening Your Congregation* event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24, at St. John United Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle. (Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.)

Keynote speaker is Dr. Paul Johnson, Professor of Marine Geology and Geophysics at the University of Washington. His topic is *Climate Change.*

Afternoon workshops include these and more: *Electric cars and getting churches plugged in* (Jim Billmaier, JOLT!); *Church grounds as wildlife habitat* (Michelle Billmaier); *Free toilets and other flashes of flushing wisdom* (Lee Bjorklund); *Community gardens* (St. John United); *Cleanliness is...Godliness? A journey through your cleaning supply bin;* and *Greening Congregations Program* (Earth Ministry).

Cost is $15 per person and includes lunch. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 15. A registration form is available on the calendar at www.lutheransnw.org/calendar.

The event is sponsored by the Northwest Washington Synod Stewardship and Mission Support Team.

A Word From The Director For Evangelical Mission/ Assistant To The Bishop

The Rev. Jerry Buss

Of the 65 synods in the ELCA, the Northwest Washington Synod is near the top as far as starting new congregations. Currently we have 10 congregations-under-development, three second sites of existing congregations and four exploratory worshiping communities for a total of 17 new starts.

The energy and resources invested by our synod in this area is quite significant—a synod-wide effort is required. These new starts are supported by the synod's Evangelical Outreach Team, by congregations filling the role of fiscal agents, by prayer partners, and by my position as Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM).

A total of 15 mission developers are at work in these new ministries. Support for them comes from the synod candidacy committee, the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministry) program, and by people who serve as their coaches and mentors. The DEM is responsible for supervising mission developers and for overseeing a process to identify new mission developers and re-developers.

Up to half of the funding for new starts comes from the ELCA Churchwide, but our synod is expected to be a financial partner as well. About $90,000 in synod funding is required every year to fulfill our part of supporting these new starts, with the synod share needing to grow even greater in the coming years. Also, several congregations and many individuals in our synod provide partnership support that is crucial to these new ministries.

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A Word From Director For Evangelical Mission

While the support story is of great interest, even more interesting is the ethnic and multi-cultural mixture within the new starts. Five are among Chinese people, two among Latinos, one is Ethiopian and one is Indonesian. Others are multi-ethnic and multi-cultural, including the Church of Steadfast Love at the Compass Housing Alliance in Seattle where worship takes place in both English and Spanish. Some reach out to particular age-ranges or groups of people who have not always sensed that the church was for them. Welcome and hospitality formed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ makes these ministries possible. (An example is Luther's Table in Renton, which will be highlighted at the Churchwide Assembly this August in Orlando, Florida.)

The newest ministry is just now being formed and receiving synod authorization. It is an exploratory

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Deadline for copy of the September 2011 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, August 3.
Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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Churchwide Assembly

Attending From Our Synod

Voting members from our synod will be travelling to Orlando, Florida, to attend this year's Churchwide Assembly. Links to information about the Assembly can be found at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2011cwa.

Voting members are: Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop, Christ the King in Snohomish (ex-officio); Georganne Robertson, Synod Vice President, Queen Anne in Seattle (ex-officio); Tony Rhodes, Advent in Mill Creek; Mark Kremen, University in Seattle; Kevin Bates, Advent in Mill Creek; Kirby Unti, St Matthew in Renton; Lydia Wittman Grebe, Zion in Custer; Elaine Harrison, Faith in Seattle; Kim Unti, St Matthew in Renton; and John Grebe, Zion in Custer. These names are also available at www.lutheransnw.org.

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A Word From Director For Evangelical Mission

worshiping community of Taiwanese people. There are fewer than 10 Taiwanese congregations in the entire ELCA, and the closest one is in Beaverton, Oregon. An ELCA Taiwanese pastor, Jeremy Shih, has been holding Bible studies in the homes of Taiwanese families while they search for a place to hold worship. About 40 adults are already part of this group, with significant momentum for the future. The families come from all over the Seattle metro area, but the worship site will most likely be in Bellevue.

As you can see, new possibilities "pop-up" anywhere and at any time. The Holy Spirit energizes the mission, and we do our best to keep up. If you have a dream for a new start somewhere in our synod or if your congregation wants to support mission work right here in Northwest Washington, please be in touch with me or other leaders in the synod. Thank you.

The Journey Has Water And Miracles

By The Rev. Nancy Winder, Assistant to the Bishop For Candidacy

Many years ago at Holden Village the late beloved poet Herb Brokering wrote a hymn for a baptism. The hymn was called *The Journey Has Water and Miracles*. Two young men began their life in Christ washed in the cold North Cascade waters of Railroad Creek and set out to find how God would engage them on their journeys.

A miracle is just that: a story of how God has intersected the lives of people and led them on paths they never would have discovered on their own. Those of us that have the privilege of working with applicants and candidates for rostered ministry in the ELCA get to hear these stories of God at work in the lives of these people, these daily and life-changing miracles that are part and parcel of being in Christ. On the journey that began in the waters of baptism, people of all ages and cultures come to find their path to be called as a servant of God and others in the church. In our synod we have more than 60 people who are in one part or another of this process.

The journey of Candidacy is one of formation. The first step is Entrance. It includes being enrolled in a seminary and working towards the roster to which they feel called: Ordained Ministry, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Ministry or Deaconess. In our synod we have people preparing for every roster.

The second step is Endorsement, which takes place the year before a candidate goes on internship or begins their project and field experience. This is the time when the person declares a particular roster and continues their preparation with more specificity.

Finally, at the end of their education, each person comes before the committee for Approval and, once approved, awaits assignment and call in the church. It is a good process, and your Candidacy Committee graciously

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Journey

walks with these people every step of the way.

The Candidacy Committee meets once a month, often all day. It is very unusual not to have a formal interview with a candidate at each meeting. Members of the Candidacy Committee are: Trygve Anderson (Central, Everett), Faye Bone (Zion, Custer), Pastor Kathyrn Buffum (St. Matthew, Renton), Pastor Paul Hoffman, Chair (Phinney Ridge, Seattle), Pastor Erik Kindem (Peace, Seattle), Pastor Linda Larson (member of Bow-Edison), Malcolm McCallum (Edmonds, Edmonds), David Rice (First Richmond Beach), Georganne Robertson (Queen Anne, Seattle), Rachel Schoeld (Immanuel, Seattle). Staff to the committee are: Pastor Nancy Winder and Pastor Shelley Wickstrom (Region 1). Bishop Chris Boerger and Dr. Terry Fretheim (Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN) are present for Approval Interviews.

Each community of the Gospel in this synod is the beginning point for these journeys, from each infant brought to the font, through each proclamation of God's grace in Christ, in every class and conversation grounded in the word of God. All of you, by the power of the Holy Spirit at work here in this place, call forth the these new leaders for the future of Christ's church. If you would like to learn more about Candidacy, please click on this link: www.elca.org/candidacy. For anything to do with Candidacy in our synod, please contact meat candidacy@lutheransnw.org or 206-383-5670.

Missions Course

A missions course will be offered on Tuesday evenings this fall at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett. Trinity has partnered with *Perspectives*. The 15 sessions can be audited for only $150, after a $100 rebate offered to Lutherans. Classes will begin on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Visit the calendar on the synod's website for details.

Fall Bishop's Convo

Were you wondering what to do to celebrate St. Luke's Day this year? Were you gazing at that vacant October 18th date on your calendar, thinking "Wow! I'd really like to get together with some of my colleagues… maybe even the Bishop…for fellowship, food and some stimulating presentations"? You're in luck!

The Fall Bishop's Convocation will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland. Dr. Emlyn Ott, Director of Healthy Congregations, will be the keynote speaker. Additional time for fellowship has been added to the schedule. We will worship together, pray together, hear the latest updates from our synod and the ELCA, fellowship together, and, of course, break bread together.

Registration will open on Thursday, Sept. 1 (see the event on the synod website for registration form).

Early bird pricing will run from Sept. 1 to October 1. Regular pricing will be in effect from October 1-17, and registration at the door will be limited to the number of meals available. All participants, including spouses and guests, need to register. Your name tag is also your meal ticket. Mark your calendars now…Oct. 18, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grants Awarded By Gethsemane

Gethsemane in Seattle recently granted funds to seven local ministries: Church of Steadfast Love; Gethsemane Community Services and Gethsemane Saturday Soup and Movies; Grace Chinese, Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars; Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington; Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry, Gethsemane Scholarship for Lutherans; Northwest Washington Synod, Ethiopian Chicken Hatchery; and Elizabeth Gregory Home.

Anniversary Of Sept. 11

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson sent out a pastoral letter on May 24 encouraging congregations to "reach out to out to ecumenical partners, including Muslim and Jewish partners, in your communities to plan 9/11 commemorations."

Bishop Hanson also said, "On September 11, President Obama will dedicate a national memorial to those who died on that day ten years ago. This memorial is made possible by the Association of Victim's Families, a group founded, funded and supported by the ELCA through Lutheran Disaster Response of New York. Even as we dedicate this national memorial, we affirm that our real strength lies in our neighborliness and in relationships that have the power to shape the future of religious expression in this country."

A link to the letter is available on the homepage of our website, as well as on the calendar. The letter includes links to resources, planned events and other organizations.

Planting Seeds

For A Healthier Tomorrow

A new resource can be used to introduce your unit -- or better yet, all the women in your congregation -- to the Women of the ELCA health initiative, *Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls.*

The resource includes 17 easily adaptable program ideas that have been created and used by congregations from around the country. Programs include health and wellness fairs, healthy eating education, exercise and fitness programs, health retreats and more. This resource can also be used to design and plan your own program, project or event in support of the health initiative. To download your free copy visit www.elca.org/women and click on Program Resources.

Coming Together At Soul Café

Members, Congregations, Synods and organizations of the ELCA's Region 1 are coming together in a unique way.

A new social networking site called *Soul Café* is in its infancy and you are invited to help it grow. This is an on-line community for Region 1.

Communication across and within the six synods of Region 1 is the primary focus of *Soul Café*. This social networking site will allow us to share ideas and have on-line discussions within our region.

Soul Café has just been launched. As the site moves from a couple of hundred members to the first thousand, we will see the power of this online community start to take a more defined shape. The hope is that you will see the potential of this on-line community and that you will contribute as *Soul Café* grows in numbers and scope. To see what *Soul Café* is all about go to www.soulcafe.org.

Grant Award

To Gethsemane in Seattle

The Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA has awarded Gethsemane in Seattle a Poverty Grant in the amount of $25,000. The money will be used to upgrade commercial kitchen and video equipment in the new Hope Center, which will be completed in the Spring of 2012.

In granting the award the Mission Investment Fund had written: "We at the Mission Investment Fund are deeply moved that your congregation is proceeding with plans to expand your kitchen as you transform the Hope Center – and expand your outreach to those most in need in downtown Seattle. Best wishes as you complete the meaningful project."

Coffee House Fund Raiser For The Church of Steadfast Love

by The Rev. Marvin Jonasen, Northlake in Kenmore

On the evening on June 25 members of Northlake in Kenmore held a *Coffee House* Music Event as a fund raising activity to support of The Church of Steadfast Love, an Outreach Ministry of the Compass Housing Alliance—Rev. Kristy Daniels, Pastor.

It was a wonderfully relaxing and fun evening of song, fellowship, coffee and tasty treats. Gathering in Northlake's Fellowship Hall, which had been converted into a Coffee House style, people were able to sit back in a nice and comfortable setting and listen, talk, share, and/or sing-a-long to a musical collection drawn primarily from the 1960's and 70's—though certainly not limited to just those years.

Before the break between sets, Pastor Kristy Daniels offered a brief sharing about The Church of Steadfast Love and the efforts being made by Compass Housing Alliance in its work with our brothers and sisters who are homeless. This was followed by an invitation to give from the heart to a free-will offering in support of the ministry which raised $752.

This is the fourth "Coffee House" event shared over the last several years in support of various local and/or international needs.

Musical entertainment was provided by a group of musicians from Northlake who have been singing and doing music together for more than five years. The Team includes: Janet Loewen (Guitar & Vocals), Janet Mador (Flute), Sara Hayashi (Vocals), Alan Mador (Bass), and Pastor Marvin Jonasen (Lead Guitar & Vocals). Primarily doing music from the 60's and 70's the Musical Team blends harmonies arranged and created by the members of the Team.

Here 'n There

- **The Rev. John Bjorge, pastor at First Lutheran of Richmond Beach in Shoreline,** plays competitive handball and is a member of the Seattle Handball Club. The team recently attended a National Championship in Salt Lake City where the team took third place. Pastor Bjorge has been in seven national tournaments since 2001. The game is similar to water polo, but out of the water. There are seven men on a team and the ball is about the size of a cantaloup. He has played handball since he was seven years old.
- **Lutheran Campus Ministry at Western Washington University** is selling the Shalom Center and will be moving to a new facility by the Fall of 2011. Effective immediately the new mailing address is: Lutheran Campus Ministry, PO Box 2143, Bellingham, WA 98227-2143. The phone number to contact Pastor Chris Berry is 360-220-5466. The email address is revrefcdberry@comcast.net.
- **Members at Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor** recently raised $1139 for their sister congregation in Russia, St. Katharina Lutheran Church in Kazan. The money is to help them in the restoration of their building after more than 60 years of use and misuse by the secret police.
- The congregation of **Bethlehem in Marysville** is a certified first response Red Cross Disaster Center. Members who were interested in training to become a First Responder attended a one-day training event. With recent disasters in Japan and state-wide the congregation realized the need to expand their team.
- Members of **Immanuel in Everson** contributed a congregational gift to the Interfaith Coalition auction in March. The auction helped the coalition raise $140,000. Proceeds are used to help

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Here 'n There

pay for health care at the Interfaith Community Health Center as well as the Interfaith Coalition's housing program, which provides shelter and case management for families who are homeless.

- Quilts, quilts and more quilts! Through many efforts of congregational members the following congregations sent quilts and other needed items to Lutheran World Relief:
  - Central in Bellingham sent 99 quilts, 50 school kits, 60 adult health kits and 50 baby layettes.
  - Faith in Seattle sent 107 quilts, 42 health kits, seven sewing kits and 24 layettes.
  - Our Redeemer's in Seattle provided 46 quilts and 75 personal care kits.
  - Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor sent 298 baby care kits, 70 personal kits and 96 quilts.
  - Central in Everett shipped 54 quilts and 30 health kits.
- **Bethany in Seattle** is holding their Second Annual Zucchini Festival at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 27. The zucchini festival is to celebrate the bounty of God's good earth. Members bring their zucchini and enter it into one of 12 categories, i.e. best and worst dressed zucchini races, cutest/ugliest zucchini, etc.
- Members at **Prince of Peace in Shoreline** will be volunteering their time at the Smokey Point Rest Area from Friday, July 29, to Monday, Aug. 1, as a fundraiser. They will be providing coffee and cookies to travellers during that time. Members of **Bethesda in Mountlake Terrace** volunteered at the rest stop in early July.
- **Youth from Mt. Si in North Bend** will be head to Birmingham, AL, on a mission trip to help those who were recently hit hard by tornadoes.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- **The Rev. Mary Bosell, on Disability**
- **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

We Pray For:

- **The Rev. Bob Weinman (ret.)** died on July 12 after having recently been moved to hospice care within the Ida Culver House Community. Bob and his wife Jan recently moved into the community. A service to celebrate his life is being planned. Cards may be sent to: Jan Weinman, Ida Culver House, 12503 Greenwood Ave N E303, Seattle, WA 98133.
- **The Rev. Jami Fecher, pastor at Gift of Grace in Seattle,** was in an accident on his motorcycle while headed east for vacation. He was taken to a hospital in Pocatello, ID, with a concussion and fractured ribs. Cards may be sent to: Gift of Grace Lutheran Church, 2102 N 40th St, Seattle, WA 98103.
- **The Rev. Donna Reilly Williams (ret.)** is suffering from a rare complication of diabetes and is in hospice care in her home. Donna appreciates phone calls and visits and requests that you call before visiting. She and her husband Cliff ask for your prayers. Cards may be sent to: Cliff and Donna Reilly Williams, 5326 SW Manning St, Seattle, WA 98116.
- **John R. Bjorge, father of the Rev. John Bjorge, pastor at First Lutheran of Richmond Beach in Shoreline,** died early Sunday morning, July 10, after a battle with cancer. Pastor Bjorge has gone to be with his family in Granite Falls, MN. A service is being planned for later

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Within Our Family

this week in Minnesota. Cards may be sent to Pastor John Bjorge, First of Richmond Beach, 18354 - 8th Ave NW, Shoreline, WA 98177-3546,

Prayers of Celebration:

✞ **Pastor Timothy Whiteman and his wife Cynde** would like to share prayers of thanksgiving for two big events in their lives. Cards can be sent to: The Rev. Timothy and Cynde Whiteman, Central Lutheran Church, 925 North Forest Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

❖ Prayers of thanksgiving for their grandson Antavius who recently had his one month check-up and it showed that his blood chemistry is responding well to treatment.

❖ Prayers of thanksgiving for Jaxzine Lilliette Rush. "Lilly" was born at 3:42 a.m. on June 18, 4 lbs. and 18.5 inches long. She arrived a few weeks early. Lilly joines Antavius and three year old brother Maxton. They are the children of Pastor Timothy and Cynde's daughter Erin and son-in-law Coly.

LPPO And WAC Merge

In early June the Statewide Council of the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) and the Board of Directors of the Washington Association of Churches (WAC) met and gave birth to a new organization that will bring together the staff and constituencies of both the LPPO and the WAC to better serve our shared mission. The Faith Action Network: A Partnership for the Common Good, or FAN for short, is the name of this new organization, broadly defined as "a statewide partnership of faith communities striving for a just and sustainable world through community building, education, and courageous public action."

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Jacquie Berlien	St. John's Parish Lancaster/ Bendena KS	8/1/2011
Kristine Anderson Ostrem, UCC	Faith, Seattle	6/1/2009
Joanne Engquist	Gethsemane, Seattle	8/29/2011
Jerry R O'Neill	Trinity, Freeland	7/1/2011
Kari Reiten	Lord of Life, Renton	6/13/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/1/2011
Wesley Telyea	Saint Andrew's, Bellevue	6/19/2011
Installations		
Joseph Li	Bethel Chinese, Seattle	9/18/2011
Kari Reiten	Lord of Life, Renton	6/26/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/10/2011
Wesley Telyea	Saint Andrew's, Bellevue	6/19/2011
Leaving/Joining the ELCA		
John Strand	Joined LCMC Roster	6/17/2011
Ordinations/ Commissionings/ Consecrations		
Jacquie Berlien	Trinity, Lynnwood	7/25/2011
Zhenchuan Liu	First Lutheran, Bothell	6/11/2011
Wesley Telyea	Our Saviour, Issaquah	6/11/2011
Resignations		
David Hustoft	Resigned from ELCA Roster	6/21/2011
Dan Sorenson	Prince of Peace, Seatac	6/30/2011
Transfers In/Out Of Synod		
Cheryl Kulas, Associate. in Ministry	To EWA-Idaho Synod	6/27/2011
Jerry R O'Neill	From Minneapolis Area Synod	7/1/2011
Jana M Schofield	From Southwest California Synod	7/1/2011

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

You can check for the most recent updates on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/transitions.

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	P	Paul Anderson, Interim
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	I	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Red Burchfield, Interim
Duvall, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Supply
Everett, Faith	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	P	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Bethany	PR	NV	Kathleen Anderson
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Shoreline, Bethel	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process